

Hello my name is Raymond Rabago. I am a board of education member in Winsted Connecticut who has undergraduate work in pure mathematics and currently pursuing a master's in business administration. I have worked as a mathematics tutor at a college since I was 17 years old. I am going to be speaking on behalf of myself and not the board. I got elected in November 2013 to the board. Since I have been in I have received dozens of calls/emails from parents and teachers about the common core state standards. Not a single one of them being in favor of it.

While I was talking to the teachers and parents who reached out to about these new standards, I decided to do more research. I started to talk to other board members, teachers, principals and parents from surrounding districts. What I found is that it is not only Winsted who has people dislike this new set of standards, but nearly everyone I spoke to disliked it.

One teacher I was speaking to who has nearly 40 years of teaching experience said "(common core state standards have a) Lack of a spiral curriculum. A topic is presented in a certain grade level and they are expected to master it - not all will. The curriculum content for the next grade level assumes students have mastered the previous content, but not all will. In mathematics a spiral layering approach would work better."

As a mathematics educator myself I cannot agree more with this teacher more. When I tutor someone in calculus their biggest problem is always there foundation in algebra. Without the spiral curriculum students will not be seeing algebra again once they complete that section.

A big flaw that the common core state standards has is its one-size-fits- all approach. One child does not learn at the same pace as others. Using the old method of teaching a teacher could alter their method of teaching to help all the students. Now the teachers are required to teach a specific way. Nearly all the teachers I spoke to said this was their biggest issue with the curriculum.

The common core state standards have all students start from where they are currently, to a new form of teaching. I along with others believe that the way common core was implemented was wrong. If it started from kindergarten and then worked its way up. That way students and teachers can slowly adapt to these standards.

Since the common core has not been tested we are using our children currently to test these standards. Children are not lab rats. Why are we treating them like they are? These standards should have never came out until at least tested in an education setting. Children deserve better than what they are getting forced to do by these standards.

With that being said I urge you to stop the implementation of the common core and all the bills that encourage it. Parents and teachers have reached out more than enough times showing their displeasure with these standards. It's time we stop wasting our tax dollars and ruining children's education.